

Practice #1

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16

¹⁶ May the Lord who gives peace give you peace at all times and in every way. May the Lord be with all of you.

When there's a disagreement, we want to make the other person see it "our" way, but peace doesn't work like that. In fact, sometimes the most peaceful thing you can do is to give up. To let it go. After all, you can show you care about others by letting go of what's fair.

Read the first sentence of today's verse again. Who gives you peace? Where does it come from? _____

Yep, God gives peace. And the good news is, there is an endless supply of God's peace!

Read the statement below, pausing after each line. Repeat it four times, picking a different voice for each round.

*May the Lord who gives peace Give you peace
At all times
And in every way.*

Ask God to give you peace at all times, in every way, so that you can show you care about others by letting go of what's fair.

Practice #2

Read Isaiah 26:3

*Lord, you will give perfect peace
to those who commit themselves to be faithful to you.
That's because they trust in you.*

Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument. When you're in an argument, do you care more about... Winning/ getting your way? Or making sure the other person is okay?

When we're arguing, most of the time we just want the other person to do things our way. Today's verse reminds us that when we trust God, we will receive help to live in peace with others.

The next time you're in a disagreement, here are a few things you can try:

You can stop.
You can ask God to help you.
You can walk away.
You can talk to an adult.
You can choose kind instead of unkind words.

This week, when you find yourself getting really mad about something, instead of focusing on what's been DONE to you, try to focus on what YOU can do. Ask God to give you peace—a deep-down knowing that God is in control and ready to help.

Practice #3

Read 2 Corinthians 13:11

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, be joyful! Work to make things right with one another. Help one another and agree with one another. Live in peace. And the God who gives love and peace will be with you.

Think about the last argument or disagreement you had with someone. Write that person's first initial in this blank. _____

What was your argument about? Do you remember? Are you still mad or holding a bit of a grudge?

Peace takes WORK. It's easy to get angry. It's much harder to work towards peace. Paul included these words of 2 Corinthians 13:11 in his letter to the church in Corinth. Right at the end, Paul told his readers to work to make things right, to help, to agree, and to LIVE in peace.

Think back again to your last argument. Do you need to apologize for something you said or did when you argued? Ask God to help you do the right thing—to say what you need to say so you can work towards peace.

Practice #4

Read Acts 3:15

¹⁵ You killed the one who gives life. But God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

What is the coolest thing you've ever seen or experienced? What's the craziest, most outrageous thing you've seen in person, with your own two eyes?

When Jesus died, His friends were so sad and afraid. But Jesus' death wasn't the end. Because Jesus came back to life! We celebrate Easter year after year because Jesus is alive.

All of these events—the miracles of Jesus, His teaching, healing and helping—happened with other people around. That means there were witnesses who saw these things with their own eyes. People (like Peter who spoke the words in today's verse) witnessed Jesus' death and His resurrection.

Those witnesses were the ones who couldn't stop talking about what He had done. They wanted everyone to know about Jesus! And because they were brave enough to talk about what they'd seen and heard, more and more people became believers in Jesus. Over 2,000 years later, we celebrate Easter because of those witnesses who told others about what they'd seen so long ago.

Practice #5

Read Luke 24:6-7

⁶ Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. ⁷ He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.'"

Do you know what a prediction is?

A prediction is to declare or indicate in advance— in other words, to say what you believe will happen in the future.

When the women came to the tomb, the angels greeted them with unbelievable news. Jesus wasn't there, He had risen just as He said he would. Jesus knew what was coming before it even happened. It's the whole reason Jesus came to earth in the first place. Jesus came to give His life to make a way for us to have a relationship with God.

Read Jesus' prediction of these events in Mark 8:31 and Luke 9:22.

Jesus predicted three things:

1. He would be delivered into the hands of

people—elders, chief priests, and teachers

of the law who wanted to stop him. 2. He would be killed.

3. After three days, He would rise again.

Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin. He rose again to make a way for everyone who believes in Him to have a relationship with God. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is ALIVE!

Practice #6

Read Romans 5:1

5 We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with him because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2+2= ???

30+8= ???

4X0= ???

12X1= ???

Were any of those problems hard for you solve? Even if you needed a little help, they were fairly easy, right?

Peace isn't quite so easy. When you have a conflict with someone, when you argue or disagree, it's hard to see things from the other person's point of view. It's hard to stop and think, "How can we solve this problem?" in the middle of an argument. We're more interested in pointing out how the other person is wrong.

Thankfully, God doesn't do that.

God made people, and people sinned. Instead of listening to God, we decided to do things our own way. Because God loves us, Jesus came to fix that problem. God had a solution to the sin problem even while people were still messing up. God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin so we could be forgiven. Jesus came to be our Savior.

Practice #7

Read John 3:16

⁶ God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

This verse is what the Bible is all about. God loves you, so did what people who love do: God gave. What did God give? Jesus: God's one and only Son. Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin, or the wrong things we do. When we believe in Jesus, we get to live with God forever. Because Jesus is alive, we are forgiven and have a relationship with God, now and forever!

John 3:16: Illustrated

Have your players help describe how Draw in the dirt John 3:16 any way they choose. You can draw a heart for love, baby Jesus in a manger for "Son" etc. When you're finished, give your drawing to someone in your family or a friend. When you do, read through the verse, and talk about what Jesus has done for us!